



California Biodiversity Council

*To conserve and sustain California's natural heritage
through collaboration among leaders and
cooperation across all levels of government*

Interagency Alignment Team

December 7, 2017 | Meeting Summary

Action Items

- **DENNY G and MACKENZIE W** to contact Mojave planning team and potential partners to coordinate next steps.
- **STEPHANIE H** to provide the link to the SFEI report [DONE]
- **RON U** to contact CDFW staff working on the Delta Conservation Framework to explore connections to the RCIS Program and the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment.
- **IAT members** to contact Ron Melcer/Terri Gaines if they have additional feedback on the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment.
- **JUNKO H** to provide Daniel O'Connell with the contact information for Brett Furnas with the CDFW Wildlife Investigation Lab.
- **CBC PROGRAM MGT TEAM** will discuss next steps for an ecosystem services workshop and offer suggestions for the Executive Committee and IAT to consider.
- **DANIEL OC** to contact Denny G for potential ecosystem services contacts.
- **IAT MEMBERS** to contact Daniel OC if they have additional input for the Work Group (e.g., where the Work Group should initially focus on establishing a market like Sonoma, Fresno, or in northern California's mountain foothills).
- **STEPHANIE H** to send IAT calendar invites for February, April, and December. The June, August, and October dates may change due to IAT members' schedules.
- **IAT MEMBERS** to contact Don, Denny, & Stephanie H any suggestions for topics / speakers for the next IAT agenda and/or to volunteer to help plan the next IAT meeting
- **IAT MEMBERS** to send additional program updates to include in the IAT meeting

Welcome and Goals for the Meeting

California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Interagency Alignment Team (IAT) Chair Don Yasuda of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Southwest Region welcomed attendees and reviewed the goals of the meeting:

- Debrief the Fall 2017 CBC meeting in preparation for the Spring 2018 meeting in the Mojave
- Receive an update on the Delta Plan Amendment
- Receive an update from the Ecosystem Services Work Group
- Share updates on plans, programs, and projects that may offer opportunities for alignment with the work by other CBC members
- Identify special topic for next CBC-IAT meeting and IAT meeting dates for 2018.

CBC Fall 2017 Meeting Debrief and Next Steps for Spring 2018 Meeting/Field Trip in Mojave

CBC Executive Committee Co-Chair Kamyar Guivetchi of the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and Don Yasuda led a debrief of the CBC Fall 2017 meeting on November 13-14 in the San Benito and south Santa Clara counties. Stephanie Horii, Center for Collaborative Policy, shared general results from a recent event survey to inform meeting/field trip design for future CBC events. (*Refer to **Attachment A** for the presentation slides.*)

Overall, feedback from both the CBC Co-Chairs and attendees indicated that the event successfully achieved its objectives to provide a forum for attendees to share information, especially related to regional conservation planning; experience local conservation efforts out in the field; and network and build relationships.

Spring 2018 Meeting/Field Trip - Mojave

Denny Grossman, Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Policy Senior Advisor, presented next steps to prepare for the Spring 2018 meeting/field trip in the Mojave. (Note: At previous IAT meetings, attendees identified potential field trip sites, one of which was the Mojave; others include Central Coast, Sierra Nevada, and the Central Valley.) (*Refer to **Attachment B** for the presentation Slides and **Attachment C** for the Mojave Planning Critical Path.*)

As part of its Integrated Regional Conservation and Development (IRCAD) Program, SGC has been conducting a pilot project for the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in the Mojave eco-region. The pilot project will demonstrate how to conduct a resource conservation assessment (RCA) in a data-rich environment (*Refer to the October 26 IAT Meeting summary for additional background on the IRCAD Program and RCAs*). The Spring 2018 meeting offers a valuable opportunity to present the Mojave RCA products and other major conservation efforts in the area. Denny reached out to several other agencies in the region (e.g., Bureau of Land Management [BLM], National Park Service [NPS], Dept. of Defense [DOD], and US Fish and Wildlife Service [US FWS]) as potential partners to host the CBC meeting/field tour and identify potential topics. Topics could include:

- Regional-Scale Conservation Assessments (e.g., Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan [DRECP], the Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategy [RCIS], Mojave Desert Conservation Plan, etc.)
- Regional Development Interests and Activities (e.g., urban growth, renewable energy, etc.)
- Other Regional Development and Conservation Planning Activities (e.g., local county planning)

Denny also suggested the meeting could include an engaging panel discussion where both development and conservation representatives share their interests and discuss how to integrate conservation with development. The panel could focus on addressing the challenges that arise when areas identified as high-value conservation areas have also been identified for development and/or are on private lands.

Discussion

- **Mojave Planning Team.** Lara Rozzell (NPS), Vicki Campbell (BLM), Mike Hamilton (DOD), Karen Buhr (CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts [CARCD]), and Junko Hoshi (CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) volunteered to serve on the Mojave planning team.
- **Locations/Travel Considerations.** Given the expanse of the eco-region, many advised visiting fewer locations – likely Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree National Park, and Palm Springs. The two closest airports are Palm Springs (but has few flights) and Ontario. Yuma and Las Vegas are

other alternative airports (out-of-state may pose administrative challenges for state workers though).

- **Meeting Date/Time.** The event survey and IAT members indicated that the second week of April may be the best time to hold the meeting. Late April could be too hot for the meeting, and several other events will occur in late March and the rest of April. The meeting will likely be just two days, but not sure whether 1.5 or full two days. Several IAT members supported holding the field tour on the second day so the in-person meeting can provide sufficient context for the field tour.
- **Other Partners.** IAT members suggested other potential partners/speakers/topics: Desert Managers Group, The Nature Conservancy, and Coachella Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). There was the suggestion to explore the Western Regional Partnership group's work; Mike H indicated that the Desert Managers Group would be more appropriate.
- **Panel Discussion.** Several IAT members expressed interest in the panel discussion suggestion. An IAT member said to be sure to acknowledge the past and current efforts that did consider both development and conservation impacts (e.g., DRECP and the Coachella Valley HCP). Another said this panel discussion appears to address the challenge when an RCA identifies an area already slotted for development, which is different than if a planner wanted to incorporate conservation values as it designs a development project.
- **Future CBC meetings.** Given the planning time needed for the CBC meetings, the April IAT meeting should start initial discussions for the Fall 2018 meeting (e.g., location in the Central Coast area, Sierra Nevada, Sacramento/Bay Area, etc.). Central Coast or Sacramento area would be better if the meeting occurs in the late fall (Sierra would be too cold).

Next Steps

- Denny and Mackenzie Wieser (SGC) will lead the planning process for the Spring 2018 Mojave meeting/field tour and the Mojave planning team. The CBC program management team (Kamyar, Don, Denny, Mackenzie, and Stephanie H) will support the planning efforts as needed.
- **ACTION ITEM: DENNY G and MACKENZIE W** to contact Mojave planning team and potential partners to coordinate next steps.
- Mojave planning team and the CBC program management team will work together to develop a draft agenda for the Executive Committee and CBC Co-Chairs to consider in January.

Delta Plan Amendment – Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem

Ron Melcer and Terri Gaines, Delta Stewardship Council ("Council"), presented the Council's progress to update Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan – *Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem* ("Ecosystem Amendment") (Refer to **Attachment D** for the presentation slides and **Attachment E** for additional information on the Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment.)

The Delta Plan was first developed as a result of the Delta Reform Act of 2009. The Act laid the foundation for the Council and set agency objectives for achieving coequal goals in the Delta: provide viable water supply but also functioning and restored ecosystem. These coequal goals are carried out with the strong recognition that local land use and perspectives must be considered to achieve these two goals.

The Delta Plan is a policy document meant to align agencies working in the Delta and achieve the two coequal goals. The Council completed amendments to previous chapters in the Delta Plan and has

started the process to amend Chapter 4. Chapter 4 is predicated on five core strategies and five related regulatory policies that connect back to the Act (i.e., natural functional flows, habitat restoration, water quality in regards to ecosystem issues, nonnative species management, and fish hatcheries and harvest management). Projects/programs in the Delta must demonstrate they align with these policies.

Through the Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment process, Council staff want to take a broad look at Chapter 4 to review and update, as appropriate, policies, recommendations, and performance measures. The Ecosystem Amendment will have updated information on past and future effects of climate change and sea level rise, incorporate lessons learned about adaptive management of the Delta ecosystem, identify best practices, and be informed by the best available interdisciplinary science. For instance, the Council plans to use information from major initiatives and programs, such as CDFW's [Delta Conservation Framework](#) and the San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) report, [A Delta Renewed](#). Ron identified a few key topics that staff want to focus on in the Ecosystem Amendment, such as biodiversity on working lands, environmental justice, challenges with governance and institutional barriers, green infrastructure, and ecosystem services.

The Council Staff have conducted significant outreach in parallel to the technically focused Chapter 4 review process. Staff are working with an interagency committee specific to this effort and are also reaching out to agencies, stakeholders, and the public to provide information on their approach to the amendment and to receive input and feedback.

Discussion

- **Delta Plan Programmatic EIR.** The public hearing on the Delta Plan Amendment process Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is on Dec 14th in West Sacramento.
- **Interagency Coordination.** IAT members asked how several other agencies working in the Delta region have engaged in the amendment process.
 - **Response (Ron M and Terri G):** The Delta Conservancy and the Delta Protection Commission both participate on the interagency committee for the Ecosystem Amendment. The Council also works closely with these two agencies for other Delta activities. Federal representatives such as US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are also on the interagency committee. This committee specific to the Ecosystem Amendment process is primarily comprised of staff-level members, whereas the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) consists of high-level state and federal representatives.
- **Connection to Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).** The BDCP effort was one of the triggers for the amendment process because Chapter 4 mentions BDCP.
- **Connection to AB 2087.** IAT members explored opportunities to connect the Delta Plan Update to the Resource Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) Program.
 - There is not an RCA/RCIS in the Delta under the current RCIS Program; there is a possible RCIS for the East Bay counties that may overlap with the Delta.
 - Ron Unger, CDFW, explained that the RCIS Program can support efforts in the Delta that are not for water conveyance facilities (e.g., flood setback levees); he added that he is not aware of any preclusion to support EcoRestore directly/indirectly. The RCIS Program cannot mitigate efforts that are already considered to be mitigation.
 - There was the suggestion that the Ecosystem Amendment include a recommendation to develop an RCA or RCIS for the Delta. An RCA/RCIS could provide an overall blueprint for

- what Delta agencies want to achieve in the region, facilitating their evaluation of conservation efforts and consistency with the Delta Plan's coequal goals.
- Ron U said he would contact CDFW staff working on the Delta Conservation Framework to explore connections to the RCIS Program.

Next Steps

- **ACTION ITEM: STEPHANIE H** to provide the link to the SFEI report [DONE]
- **ACTION ITEM: RON U** to contact CDFW staff working on the Delta Conservation Framework to explore connections to the RCIS Program and the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment.
- **ACTION ITEM: IAT members** to contact Ron Melcer/Terri Gaines if they have additional feedback on the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment.

Ecosystem Services Work Group Update

Daniel O'Connell, Central Valley Partnership, provided an update on the efforts by the Working Landscapes Ecosystem Services Work Group ("Work Group") to support establishing compensatory markets for ecosystem services on working landscapes. Work Group members Daniel and Stephanie Larson (UC Davis) had presented preliminary research findings at the April 27th IAT meeting (*Refer to the April 27th IAT meeting summary for additional background on the Work Group's activities*). Daniel shared the final conclusions and recommendations from the Work Group's paper, *Market Mechanisms to Revitalize Rural Economies*, co-authored by Daniel and Adam Livingston, Sequoia Riverlands Trust: http://ucanr.edu/ecosystem_services_2017. (*Refer to **Attachment F** for the presentation slides.*)

The report explores current and potential markets for ecosystem services on working landscapes, specifically as they relate to water supply and agricultural productivity; climate stability; recreation and tourism; and biodiversity. Daniel acknowledged that a market for biodiversity poses several challenges (e.g., requires landscape-level planning and often involves tradeoffs with other services); the report explores several of these opportunities and tradeoffs in five areas:

1. Rangeland (e.g., soil carbon sequestration)
2. Diversified Farming (e.g., rural-urban buffers and education opportunities)
3. Integrated Pest Management on Farms
4. Farmland Pollination
5. Forests (e.g.; timber, water treatment, climate regulation, etc.)

The report also provides specific policy suggestions to create and expand ecosystem services markets (e.g., use existing mechanisms/programs like the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts [EIFDs] and the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation [SALC] Program); support participation (e.g., regulatory incentives, citizen science, and technical assistance); and enhance mapping capabilities. Daniel stated that mapping is one the most critical pathways to establish ecosystem services markets. Mapping operated by a public institution would support transparent decision-making that garners inclusive, broad support. He emphasized that although the concept of ecosystem services markets has existed for decades; information and relationships have progressed substantially; farmers, ranchers, young people, and other stakeholders are already conversant with public entities to further explore these opportunities. Daniel invited the IAT's suggestions on who else the Work Group should engage and suggestions on next steps.

Discussion

- **Case Study Compilation.** Several IAT members suggested the Work Group provide a compilation of case studies that demonstrate the success of ecosystem services markets.
- **Forests.** IAT members discussed how to assign ecosystem values to public lands like forests. An IAT member said that assigning ecosystem values to the forested lands could help forest agencies responsible for protecting/maintain those values, such as USFS, to review their current funding sources and explore new opportunities (e.g., should downstream beneficiaries pay into protected the watershed).
- **CDFW Wildlife Investigation Lab.** CDFW is currently analyzing 2016-2017 biodiversity monitoring data from the Central Valley and the Mojave. Preliminary findings indicate a strong correlation between farm diversity and biodiversity. The data may relate to the Work Group's efforts.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** JUNKO H to provide Daniel O'Connell with the contact information for Brett Furnas with the CDFW Wildlife Investigation Lab.
- **Ecosystem Value Standards.** How would you characterize the economic valuation of ecosystem services for different sectors? Would you need to set a standard that everyone supports?
 - Response (Dan OC): Begin with the ecosystem services for which are easiest to establish markets, such as water and climate. Start mapping those services, develop markets, then build in others once those stakeholders are receiving payments. Do this in a discrete place so the effort is more manageable.
- **Natural Capital Project Group.** The Natural Capital Project Group locally based out of Stanford has developed a way to monetize and map goods and services from nature (using their InVEST software model). They are looking for opportunities to apply their work.
 - Response (Dan OC): Collaborating with the Natural Capital Project Group could greatly advance the mapping effort (e.g., InVEST is a great tool for habitat-related values, and Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) mapping tool can provide the agricultural perspective).
- **Ecosystem Services Workshop.** IAT Members expressed strong support to convene a workshop or series of discussion on establishing markets for ecosystem services.
 - The workshops should tie ecosystem services to IRCAD and RCA/RCIS.
 - Part of the workshop could include presenting the best case studies. Presenters could write up a description of their respective case study, providing a case study compilation document.
 - This workshop could be a separate meeting or incorporate some of the discussion in future CBC meetings.
 - If the Economic Summit Work Group has an ecosystem services workshop, the IAT could help ensure CBC members participate

Next Steps

- **ACTION ITEM:** CBC PROGRAM MGT TEAM will discuss next steps for an ecosystem services workshop and offer suggestions for the Executive Committee and IAT to consider.
- **ACTION ITEM:** DANIEL OC to contact Denny G for potential ecosystem services contacts.
- The IAT has suggested the Work Group compile case studies for establishing ecosystem services markets.
- **ACTION ITEM:** IAT MEMBERS to contact Daniel OC if they have additional input for the Work Group (e.g., where the Work Group should initially focus on establishing a market like Sonoma,

Fresno, or in northern California's mountain foothills) or with names of additional people Daniel should contact.

Updates on Programs by Team Members and Opportunities for Improved Alignment

Due to time constraints, the attendees did not conduct a round robin of updates. Don encouraged attendees to send update to him and Stephanie H if they have updates to e-mail to IAT members.

Refer to **Attachment G** for compiled updates sent prior and soon after the meeting:

- CDFW – Habitat Conservation Planning Updates
- SGC awards \$34M for SALC Projects
- Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP) Workshop February 26-27, 2018
- Western Regional Partnership Information from 9th annual meeting on November 28-29, 2017

2018 IAT Meetings and Closing Comments

IAT members have identified the following suggestions for future IAT meeting topics:

- CVLCP update
- Carbon Accounting
- Ecosystem Services
- CBC Meeting Planning – Spring and Fall 2018

Don reminded attendees that future IAT meetings are normally scheduled for the 4th Thursday of every other month (December is the outlier), **1pm to 4pm**. Meetings will be in the **Walnut Conference Room, 14th floor, DoC**, unless noted otherwise. Web and conference call options available for meetings. Don requested IAT members plan to connect remotely if they are not able to attend in person. The tentative dates for 2018 are:

- February 22
- April 26
- June 28
- August 23
- October 25 (*John Muir Rm, 20th Floor*)
- December 6 (*Location TBD*)

Attendees suggested adjusting the dates during summer, as most people are on vacation or in the field. Don encouraged IAT members to continue to send Stephanie H. and him updates to share prior to the IAT meetings. Similar to previous IAT meetings, he would also requested IAT members to volunteer to help prepare for upcoming IAT meetings.

- **ACTION ITEM:** STEPHANIE H to send IAT calendar invites for February, April, and December. The June, August, and October dates may change due to IAT members' schedules.
- **ACTION ITEM:** IAT MEMBERS to contact Don, Denny, & Stephanie H any suggestions for topics / speakers for the next IAT agenda and/or to volunteer to help plan the next IAT meeting
- **ACTION ITEM:** IAT MEMBERS to send additional program updates to include in the IAT meeting summary.

List of Attendees



California Biodiversity Council

*To conserve and sustain California's natural heritage
through collaboration among leaders and
cooperation across all levels of government*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Tom Filler, DWR | 10. Don Yasuda, USFS |
| 2. Ted Frink, DWR | 11. Amy Bailey, Caltrans (teleconference) |
| 3. Terri Gaines, Delta Stewardship Council | 12. Karen Buhr, CARCD (teleconference) |
| 4. Denny Grossman, SGC | 13. Vicki Campbell, BLM (teleconference) |
| 5. Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR | 14. Mike Hamilton, DoD (teleconference) |
| 6. Stephanie Horii, CCP | 15. Tom Moore, NRCS (teleconference) |
| 7. Junko Hoshi, CDFW | 16. Lara Rozzell, NPS (teleconference) |
| 8. Ron Melcer, Delta Stewardship Council | 17. Ron Unger, CDFW (teleconference) |
| 9. Daniel O'Connell, Central Valley Partnership | 18. Mackenzie Wieser, SGC (teleconference) |

List of Attachments

- A - Dec 7 IAT Meeting Opening Slides and CBC Fall 2017 Meeting Debrief Presentation Slides
- B - CBC Spring 2018 Meeting/Field Tour Mojave Planning Slides
- C - Draft Mojave Planning Critical Path
- D - Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment Presentation Slides
- E - Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment Information Handout
- F - Ecosystem Services Work Group Presentation Slides
- G - IAT Member Updates (consolidated prior and soon after the December 7th IAT meeting)